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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/758,909	01/10/2001	Sandeep Jaggi	30454-00274 / 99-392	9228

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EXAMINER

BUI, THACH H

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3628

DATE MAILED: 09/11/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/758,909

Applicant(s)

JAGGI, SANDEEP

Examiner

Thach H Bui

Art Unit

3628

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on January 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

The specification is objected to because "In the following claims, those elements which do not include the words "means for" are intended not to be interpreted under 35 U.S.C 112.6" recited in page 44, is the patent process procedure and it should not be part of the specification. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

1. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

Regarding claim 1, "a first billing code", "a first budget database", "a first plurality of billing codes", "a first plurality of budget amounts", and "a second budget database" are not mentioned clearly in the specification. See claims 8, 15 for the same informality.

Regarding claim 4, "a billing amount associated with said first billing code" is not mentioned clearly in the specification.

Regarding claim 7, "an electronic spreadsheet" is not mentioned clearly in the specification. See claim 14 for the same informality.

Regarding claim 11, "a billing amount" is not mentioned clearly in the specification.

Regarding claim 15, "a first budget amount" is not mentioned clearly in the specification.

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 1- 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The claims are replete with informalities too numerous to mention specifically. The following noted informalities are merely exemplary thereof. The claims should be revised to conform to U.S. Patent Office practice.

Claim 1 is vague and indefinite because there is no clear or proper antecedent basis for "a first billing code" recited in line 3. Is there a second billing code later attached to the bill? Is this the "first bill" due to its assignment as "a first billing code"? See claim 8 for the same informality.

Claim 1 is vague and indefinite because "determining whether said first billing code is present a first budget database", recited in lines 4-5, is unclear. How? See claim 8 for the same informality.

Claim 1 is vague and indefinite because “a first plurality of billing codes, a first budget database, a first plurality of budget amounts and etc.” renders the claim unclear. Is there “a second plurality of billing codes, a second budget database, a second plurality of budget amounts and etc.? See claim 8 for the same informality.

Claim 1 is vague and indefinite because there is no clear or proper antecedent basis for “if said first billing code is present in said first plurality of billing codes, approving payment of the budget amount associated with said first billing code in said first budget database”. How? What is the mechanic behind it in order to approve the payment? See claim 8 for the same informality.

Claim 1 is vague and indefinite because there is no clear or proper antecedent basis for “if said first billing code is not present in said first plurality of billing codes, approving payment of the budget amount associated with said first billing code in a second budget database”. How? What is the mechanic behind it in order to approve the payment? See claim 8 for the same informality.

Claim 2 is vague and indefinite because there is no clear or proper antecedent basis for “said first billing code is associated with a task” recited in lines 1-2. What is the task? See claims 9, 17, and 22 for the same informality.

Claims 3 and 10 are vague and indefinite because “further comprising the step/means of checking whether said task has been completed before approving payment of said bill” renders the claim unclear. How? What is the step/means? See claims 18, 23 for the same informality.

Claims 5 and 12 are vague and indefinite because there is no clear or proper antecedent basis for "further comprising the step/means of checking whether the billing amount matches the budget amount associated with said first billing code". How? What is the defined step/means? See claims 6 and 13 for the same informality.

Claim 15 is vague and indefinite because there is no clear or proper antecedent basis for "means for determining a first budget amount associated with said first billing code from a budget database". How? There is no clear indication in teaching a means for determining a first budget amount associated with said first billing code from a budget database. See claim 21 for the same informality.

Claim 15 is vague and indefinite because "if said first budget amount is the same as said billing amount, approving payment of said first the budget amount; and if said first budget amount is more than said billing amount, approving payment of said billing amount" renders the claim unclear. How? What is the mechanic behind it in order to approve the payment? See claim 21 for the same informality.

3. Whereas the claims are so informal as indicated above, the examiner could not reasonably apply prior art thereto. Unless indicated otherwise, the examiner's failure to apply prior art to the claims should not be construed as an indication of allowable subject matter.

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

U.S. Patent No. 5,223,699, teaches each potential user of a telecommunications network of which is assigned a single credit card containing at least first and second authorization/billing codes, the first code being indicative of status as an authorized purchaser of goods and/or services, and the second code being indicative of status as an authorized user of the telecommunications network. The access feature of the present invention is arranged so that the validity of the second code is verified at the time the telecommunications network is accessed. After the telecommunications network has been used to complete a call, billing information including the second code that has been recorded locally is transmitted via the telecommunications network to a remote processor and associated database.

U.s. Patent No. 5,325,290 teaches systems and methods for a billing system for preparing reports and for displaying information concerning transactions between service providers and service customers including preprocessing of records relating to transaction details in order to create indices enabling rapid sorting of the records.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thach H Bui whose telephone number is 703-305-0063. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 7:30-4 p.m.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Frantzy Poinvil can be reached on 703-305-9779. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-305-7687 for regular communications and 703-305-7687 for After Final communications.

Application/Control Number: 09/758,909

Page 7

Art Unit: 3628

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-306-5711.


FRANTZY POINVIL
PRIMARY EXAMINER
403628

T.B.
September 9, 2002